

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Also, the applicants acknowledge receipt of the initialed copy of the form PTO 1449 which was filed on 12 October 2006. There is no initial next to the reference "Notice of Reason for Refusal from Chinese Patent Office issued on September 28, 2006." A marked-up copy is attached for the examiner's convenience. The examiner is respectfully requested to completely initial and return the form PTO-1449 filed 12 October 2006 at the earliest opportunity.

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 8-13 are allowed. By way of the above amendment, claim 2 and withdrawn claims 14-21 are canceled; and claims 22-23 are added. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

On page 4 of the office action, dependent claims 2, 3 and 7 were objected to, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the above amendment, claim 1 is amended to include claim 2, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is allowable. Claim 2 was canceled. Also, claims 3 and 7 are rewritten in independent form as new claims 22 and 23, respectively. In view of the above, the applicants submit that the claims are patentable.

The applicants have rewritten the claims in independent form since the office action indicated that claims 2, 3 and 7 would be allowable if so re-written. However, the applicants do not concede that other features in the claims are found in the prior art.

The applicants wish to clarify for the record, if necessary, that the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution. Moreover, the applicants reserve the right to pursue the

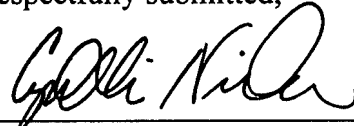
original subject matter in a continuation application. Any narrowing amendment to the claims in the present Amendment is not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter between the original claims and the present claims; rather this is merely an attempt at providing one or more definitions of what the applicants believe to be suitable patent protection. In addition, the present claims provide the intended scope of protection that the applicants are seeking for this application. Therefore, no estoppel should be presumed, and the applicants' claims are intended to include a scope of protection under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

For all the reasons advanced above, the applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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